

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following is a complete listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

sub  
C1  
B1

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a continuous casting and rolling plant with a computing unit, including a plurality of slabs belonging to different production orders within sequences on the continuous casting and rolling plant, comprising:

determining the order of the slabs belonging to the production orders within the sequences with the computing unit by a genetic algorithm; and

controlling the continuous casting and rolling plant by the computing unit in accordance with the order determined, wherein controlling the continuous casting and rolling plant by the computing unit includes defining an operational sequence for the entire continuous casting and rolling plant.

2. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of a selection, a recombination and a mutation is carried out by the genetic algorithm.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the order of the slabs belonging to the production orders within the sequences is determined with the computing unit by an event-oriented evaluation, ~~and the continuous casting and rolling plant is controlled by the computing unit in accordance with the order determined.~~

4. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein solutions are evaluated according to quality by the event-oriented evaluation.

5. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed claim 1, wherein a starting solution, as a starting point, is determined by the computing unit.

6. (Previously Amended) A continuous casting and rolling plant with a computing unit and means for carrying out the method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a plurality of slabs which belong to different production orders are produced within sequences on the continuous casting and rolling plant, wherein the computing unit contains a genetic algorithm for determining the order of the slabs belonging to the production orders within the sequences.

7. (Previously Amended) The continuous casting and rolling plant as claimed in claim 6, wherein an event-oriented evaluation is used for determining the order of the slabs belonging to the production orders within the sequences.

8. (Previously Added) The method of claim 1, wherein the continuous casting and rolling plant is a thin-slab continuous casting and rolling plant.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2,  
wherein the order of the slabs belonging to the production orders within the

sequences is determined with the computing unit by an event-oriented evaluation, and the continuous casting and rolling plant is controlled by the computing unit in accordance with the order determined.

10. (Previously Added) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein solutions are evaluated according to quality by the event-oriented evaluation.

11. (Previously Added) The method as claimed claim 2, wherein a starting solution, as a starting point, is determined by the computing unit.

12. (Previously Added) The method as claimed claim 3, wherein a starting solution, as a starting point, is determined by the computing unit.

13. (Previously Added) The method as claimed claim 4, wherein a starting solution, as a starting point, is determined by the computing unit.

14. (Previously Added) The method as claimed claim 9, wherein a starting solution, as a starting point, is determined by the computing unit.

15. (Previously Added) The method as claimed claim 10, wherein a starting solution, as a starting point, is determined by the computing unit.

16. (Previously Added) A continuous casting and rolling plant with a computing unit and means for carrying out the method as claimed in claim 2, wherein a plurality of slabs which belong to different production orders are produced within sequences on the continuous casting and rolling plant, wherein the computing unit contains a genetic algorithm for determining the order of the slabs belonging to the production orders within the sequences.

17. (Previously Added) A continuous casting and rolling plant with a computing unit and means for carrying out the method as claimed in claim 3, wherein a plurality of slabs which belong to different production orders are produced within sequences on the continuous casting and rolling plant, wherein the computing unit contains a genetic algorithm for determining the order of the slabs belonging to the production orders within the sequences.

18. (Previously Added) A continuous casting and rolling plant with a computing unit and means for carrying out the method as claimed in claim 4, wherein a plurality of slabs which belong to different production orders are produced within sequences on the continuous casting and rolling plant, wherein the computing unit contains a genetic algorithm for determining the order of the slabs belonging to the production orders within the sequences.

19. (Previously Added) A continuous casting and rolling plant with a computing unit and means for carrying out the method as claimed in claim 5, wherein a plurality of slabs which belong to different production orders are produced within sequences on the continuous casting

B1 and rolling plant, wherein the computing unit contains a genetic algorithm for determining the order of the slabs belonging to the production orders within the sequences.

---